the interest of customers in this regard, TRAI on 03.05.2005 directed all Cellular Mobile Service Providers and Unified Access Service Providers that no chargeable value added service shall be provided to customer without his explicit consent. Any value added service, which was earlier being provided free of charge, shall not be made chargeable without the explicit consent of the customers.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Scheme to increase the revenue

†2542. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under the consideration of Indian Posts and Telegraph department to arise its revenue;

(b) if so, whether any new scheme is proposed to be introduced to compete with courier services;

(c) if so, the features of the new scheme; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) To generate revenues, the Department of Posts has initiated a number of measures under Plan to modernize it and induct technology into its various operation. Approximately 79% of the Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 1350 crores has been earmarked for this purpose. New Products and Services introduced recently are Logistics Post and Direct Post, with a view to generate revenue. Introduction of new products/services and refinement of existing products/ servies are a continuous process to compete with couriers.

With Logistics Post, the Department is trying to build on its core competence and the reach of its network, to offer a service that has been identified even at the international level, as an area of future growth for Postal systems. Logistics Post has been designed for transmission of consignment loads across the country.

Direct Post deals with the processing and delivery of sales messages/

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

announcements as un-addressed mail. Direct Post is another business segment that has become a successful revenue stream in many Postal Systems.

The existing products/services are systematically marketed by establishing a separate Marketing mechanism in the Business Development and Marketing Directorate as well as in all the States across the country. The Department is also seeking to optimally utilise the existing manpower by redeploying them to meet the emerging work requirement.

Annual Spectrum Charges

2543. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI recommended for lowering the ceiling of annual spectrum charges payable by service providers to Government from the existing 6 per cent to 4 per cent on annual gross revenue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that TRAI has also recommended for constitution of Group of Ministers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) in what manner, Government are going to ensure availability of adequate spectrum to achieve the target of 20 million mobile subscribers by 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In para 3.9.3 of their recommendations on Spectrum Related Issues, the TRAI has recommended the following.

"In view of the gravity of the situation in regard to spectrum availability for various operators even to the short term of 2007 to meet the targets set by the Government for Cellular telephones and at the same time the nearly insurmountable difficulties faced by Defence in vacating the spectrum in such a short time frame, we strongly recommend immediate constitution of a group at the level of Ministers of the Union Government assisted by professionals from Defence, Department of Telecom and TRAI to draw up